

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office  
FLOOR DEBATE

March 23, 2001      LB 711

teachers. And so it appeared to be the right thing to do. It's the right thing to do because, as many of you know, the ability to track and keep teachers is an ongoing problem in this state, and anything we can do to perhaps bridge that gap that now exists would certainly be as a positive thing. I...I have to tell you, and I have declared a conflict of interest because my wife is a retired school teacher, does draw a small retirement. It's not very much because she didn't teach that many years, and she would not be affected by this plan. But I felt it only fair to warn...to let you know that I, because my wife does draw a small retirement, I did declare a conflict of interest with the...under the law so that I could feel comfortable in talking to you...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR VRTISKA: ...about this bill. I hope that you will take a look at not only what Senator Wickersham has brought to you and what I think is important, but also at the amendments that are going to come out that will deal with some other issues with the state patrol and with the judges who, in my judgment, and that beared up by the actuary, those retirement programs are actuarially sound. And so I would hope that you could see your way to advance this bill, and I will...my time is about up. I'll let Senator Wickersham bring forth the amendments that will be following up on this bill. And I appreciate your time, and with that, thank you very much.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Vrtiska. Senator Bruning, you're recognized to open on the committee amendments to LB 711. (AM0258, Legislative Journal page 701.)

SENATOR BRUNING: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, the Retirement Committee offers the committee amendment. It's technical in nature. It cleans up the provision that allows a member of the plan who's had between 5 and 20 years of service who dies, it allows their spouse to receive a benefit. This is already in the bill. The Retirement Committee amendment simply cleans up that provision. It's a very technical change, nothing substantive. The other part of the committee amendment adds the emergency clause. And that's all the committee amendment does.